

For 30 years, Continental National Bank has been at the heart of the economic development of South Florida. With quality banking services, a skilled staff and extensive community involvement, Continental National Bank has developed a reputation for caring about its customers while extending knowledgeable and professional banking services.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I warmly congratulate Continental National Bank on this important milestone and thank all of the fine men and women who are part of Continental National for their commitment and faithful service in supporting the needs and priorities of the entire South Florida community.

HONORING RON MCNEALL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ron McNeall. On October 1, Ron is retiring from the Board of Directors of the Missouri Corn Growers Association and Missouri Corn Merchandising Council after 11 years of service.

Ron McNeall was born in Boonville, Cooper County, Missouri on November 30, 1948. He has been married to his wife Carolyn for 33 years, and they have three wonderful children in Travis, Kelly, and Ashley.

In addition to his 11 years of service as a Director on the MCGA/MCMC Board, Ron is also a past MCMC Chairman and MCGA President. At the national level, he has served as a delegate to the National Corn Growers Association and he has served as a National Corn Growers Association Production and Stewardship Action Team Member. He has also been an active member of the United States Grains Council. Ron was a seed salesman for Pioneer Seed for at least 18 years, and served on Pioneer Seed's Advisory Council from 1991–1993.

As a dedicated advocate for agriculture, Ron has been the recipient of numerous awards. In 2000 he received an Honorary State FFA Degree, and in 2003 he was named the Outstanding MCGA Member. While many of us associate Ron's service with the agricultural sector, his dedication extends far beyond it, as he served with distinction on the Keytesville School Board for 12 years.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ron McNeall, a remarkable citizen who exemplifies the qualities of dedication and service.

HONORING HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER SYLVIA R. GARCIA

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harris County Commissioner Sylvia R. Garcia. Aside from her hard work and diligence as an distinguished public servant, she has been an inspiration and a strong leader for the Hispanic communities of Southeast Texas. Prior to her election in 2003, Commis-

sioner Garcia served as Controller for the City of Houston and before that served as the appointed Director and Presiding Judge of the Houston Municipal Court System.

She is not only a great Houstonian, but a proven leader and driving force in her community. As an active leader in the Houston community, the Commissioner has served on more than 25 community boards and commissions, including the San Jacinto Girl Scouts, the Houston Hispanic Forum, the American Leadership Forum, the Texas Southern University Foundation and the Institute of Hispanic Culture. She has selflessly given of herself in order to promote strength and leadership in her community.

Despite the demanding duties of being Harris County Commissioner, she has given of her time to be chairperson or honorary chairperson of many charity functions. Such functions include the kick-off for "America Walks for Strong Women", benefiting the National Osteoporosis Foundation and the "International Paella Festival and Polo Espanol" benefiting Casa de Esperanza and The Mercy Foundation.

Her honors by the media and other organizations speak volumes about her service. She was named "Humanitarian of the Year" by the National Conference of Communities and Justice and has also been honored with the Texas Woman's University Board of Regents Woman of Distinction Award, the Hispanic Scouting Distinguished Citizen Award from the Sam Houston Area Boy Scouts of America, and the Board Award from the San Jacinto Girl Scouts.

Commissioner Garcia's accomplishments should be an inspiration to us all. She has done a fine job as Harris County Commissioner and is an invaluable resource for the Hispanic communities of Texas. She is someone who continues to inspire, and I am proud to recognize her on the floor of the House today.

HONORING THE RUTH PAGE FOUNDATION

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Ruth Page Foundation of dance and performing arts on more than 30 years of innovative dance and artistic excellence.

The Ruth Page Foundation was established in 1970 in order to uphold and promote the highest quality of performing arts as produced by choreographer and dance icon Ruth Page and continues to be at the forefront of innovative dance theater in Chicago.

A native Chicagoan, Ms. Page gained national recognition through her unprecedented incorporation of the era's social and political issues into her artistic performances. In addition, Ms. Page attained international prominence by becoming the first American to dance with Diaghilev's Ballet Russe. In later years, Ms. Page would go on to choreograph, commission, and dance in a string of hits such as Polka Melancholique and Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

During the Great Depression of the 1930's, Ms. Page teamed up with Bentley Stone to di-

rect the federally funded Chicago Works Progress Administration (WPA) Dance Project. The duo had significant success with their groundbreaking feminist ballet American Patterns, and later became the first American ballet company to tour South America.

However, Ms. Page is probably best remembered for her assiduous efforts in creating and operating numerous dance companies throughout the Chicagoland area. From her first association with the Ravinia Opera in 1926, to her production of the The Nutcracker at McCormick Place's Arie Crown Theater in the mid 1980's, Ms. Page contributed to the city's cultural scene by taking on the roles of prima ballerina, choreographer, director, financial backer, and visionary. Ms. Page, who passed away in 1991, is still considered the grand lady of Chicago dance.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the people of Chicago in congratulating the brilliant Ruth Page Foundation, a company that continues to uphold the quality and discipline that was embodied by its namesake. I am proud of their numerous achievements both on and off the stage and wish them continued growth and success into the future.

HONORING PAUL TUDOR JONES II

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Paul Tudor Jones II for his passionate dedication to conservation techniques and land stewardship practices of his Blue Valley Ranch located in Grand County, CO.

Mr. Jones was the 2004 recipient of the Middle Park Land Trust Land Steward of the Year Award. This annual award is given to the Grand County, CO landowner who most exemplifies the mission of the Middle Park Land Trust in land management and conservation practices who help preserve Grand County's scenery, agriculture, water, wildlife and biodiversity for today and future generations.

Mr. Jones first purchased a portion of the Blue Valley Ranch in 1994, he re-acquired the water rights and began a holistic approach to ranch management which includes wildlife conservation, agricultural production, stream enhancement, recreational activities and in essence, the preservation of our local heritage. The Blue Valley Ranch now encompasses 25,000 acres and is thriving.

The primary focus of the Blue Valley Ranch is wildlife conservation. The ranch has worked in partnership with the Colorado Division of Wildlife on many projects including the reintroduction of antelope south of the Colorado River, sage grouse monitoring and habitat restoration, and wild turkey transplants on both public and private land.

Habitat improvements for both wildlife and livestock have been prescribed burns, forest treatments, crops, and a rotational grazing system.

Many miles of the Blue River and adjoining tributaries that were vulnerable to low flows, high temperatures, and predators have been restored to a more natural condition.

It is a credit to Mr. Jones that agricultural production continues on the Blue Valley